

Remarks

I. Claim Amendments And Support Therefor

Claims 1, 4 – 11, 15 – 30 and 56 are currently pending in this application.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 may be found in originally filed claims 2 and 3 and at page 13, lines 17 – 21 (dry powder) and 27 – 28 (sterile). Support for the amendments to claim 11 may be found in originally filed claims 12 – 14. Support for new claim 56 may be found in original claim 16. No new matter has been introduced by way of these amendments.

II. Restriction Requirement

The Examiner seeks to restrict this application, under 35 U.S.C. § 121, to one of three groups of claims: Group I: claims 1 – 21, drawn to a microsphere comprising crosslinked polyvinyl alcohol (PVA); Group II: claims 22 – 31, drawn to a method for prophylactic or therapeutic embolization; and Group III: claims 32 – 55, drawn to a process for producing a crosslinked PVA microsphere. Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1 – 21.

Applicants reserve the right to petition from the restriction requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.144. Applicants further reserve their right to file one or more divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part applications directed to the subject matter recited by the non-elected claims, as well as to any other material disclosed in the specification that is not encompassed by the elected claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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